37TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } SENATE. { Ex. Doc. No. 8.

MESSAGE

OF

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate, the correspondence relating to the appointment of the Hon. James H. Lane as a brigadier general of volunteers.

AUGUST 6, 1861.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the resolution of your honorable body of date July 31, 1861, requesting the President to inform the Senate whether the honorable James H. Lane, a member of that body from Kansas, has been appointed a brigadier general in the army of the United States, and if so, whether he has accepted such appointment, I have the honor to transmit herewith certain papers, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, which, taken together, explain themselves, and which contain all the information I possess upon the questions propounded. It was my intention, as shown by my letter of June 20, 1861, to appoint Hon. James H. Lane, of Kansas, a brigadier general of United States volunteers, in anticipation of the act of Congress, since passed, for raising such volunteers; and I have no further knowledge upon the subject, except as derived from the papers herewith enclosed.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *August* 5, 1861.

No. 1.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
July 31, 1861.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the Senate whether the Hon. James H. Lane, a member of this body from Kansas, has been appointed a brigadier general in the army of the United States; and if so, whether he has accepted such appointment.

Attest:

J. W. FORNEY, *Secretary*.

No. 2.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *August* 1, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: Herewith I enclose you a resolution of the Senate inquiring whether Hon. James H. Lane, of Kansas, has been appointed a general in the army of the United States; and if yea, whether he has accepted the appointment. Will you please furnish me, as soon as possible, copies of all record entries and correspondence upon the subject which are in your department, together with a brief statement of your personal knowledge of whatever may contribute to a free and fair statement of the case?

Yours, truly,

A. LINCOLN.

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR.

No. 3.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *June* 20, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: Since you spoke to me yesterday about General J. H. Lane, of Kansas, I have been reflecting upon the subject, and have concluded that we need the service of such a man out there at once; that we had better appoint him a brigadier general of volunteers to-day, and send him off with such authority to raise a force (I think *two* regiments better than *three*, but as to this I am not particular) as you think will get him into actual work quickest. Tell him when he starts to put it through—not to be writing or telegraphing back here, but put it through.

Yours, truly,

A. LINCOLN.

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR.

General Lane has been authorized to raise two additional regiments of volunteers.

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Official copy.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

No. 4.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 15, 1861.

SIR. In reply to the inquiry of the Hon. F. P. Stanton, of the 13th instant, referred by you to this office, I respectfully state that on the 20th ultimo you directed an appointment as brigadier general of the three years' volunteers to be made for the Hon. James H. Lane, of Kansas. The appointment was made, as directed, and handed to you for signature, but was not returned to this office for record.

I enclose herewith a blank letter of appointment similar to the one used in his case.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

A true copy.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, *August* 3, 1861.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, ———, 186—.

SIR: You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you ———————————— in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the ———— day of ———, one thousand eight hundred and ————. Should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

Immediately on receipt hereof, please to communicate to this department, through the Adjutant General's office, your acceptance or non-acceptance of said appointment; and with your letter of acceptance return to the Adjutant General of the army the *oath* herewith enclosed, properly filled up, *subscribed*, and *attested*, reporting at the same time your *age*, *residence* when appointed, and the *State* in which you were *born*.

Should you accept, you will at once report, by letter, for orders, to

———— ————,
Secretary of War.

No. 5.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, *July* 26, 1861.

SIR: I am directed by the Secretary of War to remind you that, although appointed a brigadier general of volunteers by the President on or about the 20th of June last, you have never yet signified your acceptance or non-acceptance of the appointment, as required to do in the letter notifying you of its having been conferred, and to add that, under the circumstances, you cannot be nominated to the Senate.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

Hon. JAMES H. LANE,
United States Senate.

A true copy.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, *August* 3, 1861.

No. 6.

WASHINGTON CITY, *July* 28, 1861.

SIR: When the Kansas brigade is organized, as contemplated by the letter from the Secretary of War, directed to me, of date 20th June, and when I shall have ascertained that my services are desired by the officers and men of that brigade, then will I communicate with your department on the subject of your note of July 26. It affords me pleasure to inform you that the brigade is filling up rapidly, and will, I hope, be ready to take the field by the 10th of August. I speak the desires of the Kansas congressional delegation when I request your department to postpone the appointment of brigadier general for the Kansas brigade until their wishes as to their leader be ascertained and communicated.

Yours, truly,

J. H. LANE.

Brigadier General THOMAS,
Adjutant General United States Army.

I concur.

S. C. POMEROY.

I also concur.

MARTIN F. CONWAY.

Official copy.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

No. 7.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
August 3, 1861.

SIR: In compliance with the direction conveyed in your note of the 1st instant, I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of all correspondence on the files of this department relating to the appointment of honorable J. H. Lane as brigadier general of volunteers.

The resolution of the Senate of 31st ultimo is enclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS A. SCOTT,
Acting Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

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